

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 OES-03 IO-11 /081 W

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P R 281627Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1043

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, SV, SU, NO

SUBJECT: SOVIETS REPLY TO NORWAY ON SVALBARD WIVES ISSUE

REFS: (A) OSLO 303, (B) OSLO 0226, (C) OSLO 0156

SUMMARY: NORWEGIANS HAVE RECEIVED NOTE FROM SOVIETS EXPRESSING SURPRISE THAT NORWEGIANS SAY WIVES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO JOIN AIRPORT PERSONNEL AT SVALBARD, SINCE SOVIETS NEVER UNDERSTOOD THAT FAMILIES WERE TO BE EXCLUDED. THEY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO RENT MORE LIVING SPACE THERE IF NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE FAMILIES. NORWEGIANS ARE FINDING ISSUE MORE COMPLEX THAN THEY INITIALLY EXPECTED AND ARE MEETING DURING NEXT FEW DAYS TO DECIDE HOW TO REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE. END SUMMARY

1. NORWEGIAN CIVIL AIR DIRECTORATE RECEIVED NOTE FROM AEROFLOT JAN 27 EXPRESSING SURPRISE THAT NORWEGIANS ARE RAISING PRESENCE ON SVALBARD OF WIVES OF  
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SOVIET AIRPORT PERSONNEL AS A PROBLEM. ACCORDING FONOFF

PLAR ADISOR BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN, AEROFLOT OFFICIALS SAY THAT DURING THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORWEGIANS FOR RENTAL OF APARTMENTS NORWEGIANS DID NOT SAY FAMILIES COULD NOT COME. NOTE SAYS THAT NORWEGIAN CIVIL AIR DIRECTORATE AUTHORITIES SAID ONLY THAT BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF APARTMENTS ON SVALBARD, AEROFLOT COULD RENT NO MORE SPACE THAN THAT PROVIDED IN CONTRACT. SOVIETS SAY THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THIS MEANT FAMILIES WERE TO BE EXCLUDED, AND THEY ARE SURPRISED THAT NORWEGIANS ARE NOW USING THE CONTRACT TO PREVENT FAMILIES FROM COMING TO SVALBARD. NOTE SAYS THAT BECAUSE OF ISLOATION OF SOVIET PERSONNEL IN NORWEGIAN COMMUNITY ON SVALBARD IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT THEIR FAMILIES CANNOT BE WITH THEM, AND IT ADDS THAT AEROFLOT IS WILLING TO SIGN A NEW AGREEMENT TO RENT LARGER APARTMENTS SO THAT FAMILIES CAN BE THERE.

2. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN SAYS SOVIET REPLY MAKES ISSUE MORE COMPLICATED THAN NORWEGIANS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT. THOUGH THE AGREEMENT SPECIFIES FIVE TO SIX SOVIET EMPLOYEES AT THE AIRPORT, IT DOES NOT REFER TO TOTAL NUMBER OF SOVIETS, INCLUDING FAMILIES (WHICH NOW APPEARS TO BE A MAJOR OVERSIGHT OF NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATORS) AND HE BELIEVES THERE WILL BE SOME SYMPATHY AMONG NORWEGIANS TO ALLOW SOME FAMILIES TO ACCOMPANY AIRPORT PERSONNEL. ON THE OTHER HAND, NORWEGIANS ON SVALBARD FEEL THAT SOVIETS SHOULD NOT GET PRIVILEGES THEY DO NOT RECEIVE AND SYSSELMANN ELDRING HAS STATED VERY CLEARLY THAT HE FEELS GOVERNMENT CANNOT GIVE IN TO SOVIETS ON THIS ISSUE.

3. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN SAYS NORWEGIANS WILL MEET DURING NEXT FEW DAYS, AND HOPEFULLY BY EARLY NEXT WEEK THEY WILL REACH AGREEMENT ON COURSE OF ACTION AND REPLY TO AEROFLOT NOTE. HE SAYS THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANY FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES OTHER THAN EARLIER POSITION FOR ADHERING STRICTLY TO TERMS OF AGREEMENT, THAT IS FIVE OR SIX PERSONNEL AT THE AIRPORT AND NO WIVES. BUT ONE ALTERNATIVE WHICH WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERED IS POSSIBILITY OF GETTING SOVIETS TO CUT DOWN ON AIRPORT EMPLOYEES IN EXCHANGE FOR PRESENCE OF THEIR FAMILIES. THIS WOULD REDUCE EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND MIGHT BE UNDERSTOOD BY NORWEGIAN POPULATION ON SVALBARD.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL, HOUSING, AGREEMENTS, DEPENDENTS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, AIRPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JAN 1976  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** SOVIETS REPLY TO NORWAY ON SVALBARD WIVES ISSUE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OTRA, SV, SU, NO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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